

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NEW DE 10214 191404Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 IO-14 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-07 FEAE-00

ERDA-07 /120 W

-----114806 191410Z /45

R 191324Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4813

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 10214

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IN

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER CALLS FOR DESTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS;
PRESS COMMENTARY ON NUCLEAR AFFAIRS

REF: NEW DELHI 10155

1. AT A JULY 18 MEETING WITH A GROUP OF COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, PRIME MINISTER DESAI SAID THE FIRST TASK BEFORE MANKIND WAS THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL ATOMIC WEAPONS. THE SAMACHAR DESPATCH, CARRIED IN THE JULY 19 DELHI PRESS, QUOTES THE PRIME MINISTER AS SAYING: " UNLESS THAT IS DONE, THERE CAN BE NO PEACE ON EARTH." MR. DESAI REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IN THIS MATTER HE WOULD GET MORE SYMPATHY FROM PRESIDENT CARTER THAN FROM ANYONE ELSE. "PRESIDENT CARTER SEEMS TO BELIEVE IN THE SAME VALUES AS I DO. THE SETTING IS DIFFERENT AND THERE MAY BE DIFFERENCES OVER DETAILS BUT WE AGREE ON FUNDAMENTALS." THE PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, IF HE COULD CONVINCE THE US AND USSR TO DESTROY NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUT, HE REPORTEDLY ADDED, EVEN AN ATTEMPT TO BRING THIS ABOUT WOULD GIVE HIM SATISFACTION.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NEW DE 10214 191404Z

2. N.J. NANPORIA, A SENIOR JOURNALIST OF THE "HINDUSTAN TIMES" (JULY 19 EDITION) DISCUSSES INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL PROBLEM AND ARGUES THAT THE REAL ISSUE IS SAFEGUARDS AND NOT PROLIFERATION. REVIEWING THE FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCED THE NRC TO APPROVE THE LATEST FUEL LICENSE,

NANPORIA OBSERVED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S PLEDGE TO RESIGN IF HE WAS UNABLE TO RESIST PRESSURES TO MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR WEAPONS WAS "IMPRESSIVE, BACKED UP AS IT WAS BY THE PERSONALITY OF A MAN WHOSE WORD CARRIES MORE THAN USUAL WEIGHT." THE ASSURANCES OF THE PRESENT INDIAN GOVERNMENT THAT NUCLEAR ENERGY WILL BE USED ONLY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, IN THE JOURNALIST'S OPINION, HAVE MORE CREDIBILITY THAN THOSE GIVEN IN THE PAST. MOREOVER, THE US UNDERSTOOD THAT A REFUSAL TO SUPPLY TARAPUR WOULD DENY IT THE POSSIBILITY OF " CONVERTING NEW DELHI TO THE AMERICAN VIEWS ON PROLIFERATION." THE TARAPUR FUEL DECISION HAS "ALL THE MARKINGS OF A TEMPORARY EXPEDIENT, WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT PLAYING THE ROLE OF AN UNEASY MODERATOR." BUT, NANPORIA ASKED, WHAT HAPPENS SIX MONTHS LATER WHEN REFUELING BECOMES DUE. THE NEW NRC MAY NOT BE AS "AMENABLE TO STATE DEPARTMENT PERSUASION" AS ITS PREDECESSOR. "... SOME FAST THINKING IS REQUIRED BEFORE SO TOUCH-AND-GO A SITUATION IS REACHED AGAIN." PRESIDENT CARTER'S BATTLE FOR NON-PROLIFERATION WAS LOST, THE JOURNALIST ARGUED, WHEN THE FIRST ATOMIC BOMB WAS DETONATED. IT IS INEVITABLE THAT NUCLEAR KNOW-HOW AND TECHNOLOGY WILL BE EVEN MORE WIDELY AVAILABLE THAN THEY ARE ALREADY. "TO ATTEMPT TO STOP THE INEVITABLE IS TO FOREGO THE OPPORTUNITY OF COOPERATING WITH IT CONSTRUCTIVELY AND IN THE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NEW DE 10214 191404Z

PROCESS INVITING OPPROBRIUM AND FAILURE." "... FOR MR CARTER TO ENDANGER HIS RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES ON THE NUCLEAR THRESHHOLD OR JUST ACROSS IT FOR A CAUSE THAT IS VIRTUALLY LOST IS SURELY TO SURRENDER FOREIGN POLICY TO THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS. ..." THIS ALSO, NANPORIA ARGUES, OVERLOOKS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE FROM A CONCERN OVER PROLIFERATION TO ENSURING THAT NUCLEAR ENERGY IS NOT DIVERTED TOWARD DESTRUCTIVE ENDS. PRESIDENT CARTER'S EXPECTATIONS COULD BE "RUNNING UNREASONABLY HIGH IN THE WAY OF A QUID PRO QUO FOR TARAPUR FUEL ..." NEW DELHI MUST EXPLAIN "WITH THE UTMOST CLARITY THAT IT MEANS WHAT IT SAYS." THE THREAT OF WITHHOLDING FUEL IF A NUCLEAR DEVICE IS EXPLODED IS NOT" THE HAPPIEST WAY OF WINNING COOPERATION." AND THE PRIME MINISTER IS NOT THE ONLY ONE "NOT TO TAKE KINDLY TO SUCH INTIMIDATION ALTHOUGH AMONG THE FIRST TO APPLAUD MR. CARTER'S MOTIVES."GOHEEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE10214
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770268-0496
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770743/aaaabksr.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 77659a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NEW DELHI 10155
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1818898
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER CALLS FOR DESTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS; PRESS COMMENTARY ON NUCLEAR AFFAIRS
TAGS: ENRG, IN, (DESAI, MORARJI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/77659a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009